

with comparable qualifications. Women complete more schooling than men but earn only 72 cents for each dollar earned by men. Although the wage gap has slowly narrowed over the years, much of the gap is not closing for women at all but is due to the decline in men's wages. Much of the rest of the progress can be traced to earnings of a small group of professional or highly skilled women. The average woman has seen little if any progress. Over her lifetime, a woman loses over \$420,000 due to pay inequity, and collectively, women—and therefore often their families—lose more than \$100 billion in wages each year because of wage discrimination.

The Equal Pay Act (EPA) was passed in 1963, and by focusing on pay disparities where men and women were doing the same (or similar) jobs, its enforcement has helped narrow the wage gap between men and women. The Fair Pay Act takes the Equal Pay Act one step further and seeks to confront the pay disparity problem of the 1990's the way the EPA confronted the equal pay problem in the 1960's.

The FPA recognizes that if men and women are doing comparable work, they should be paid the same. If you are an emergency services operator, a female-dominated profession, for example, you should not be paid less than a fire dispatcher, a male-dominated profession, simply because you are a woman and he happens to be a man. If you are a social worker, a traditionally female occupation, you should not earn less than a probation officer simply because you are a woman.

The FPA, like the EPA, will not tamper with the market system. As with the EPA, the burden will be on the plaintiff to prove discrimination. She must show that the reason for the disparity between herself and a man doing comparable work in her workplace is sex—or race—discrimination, not legitimate market factors.

As women's employment becomes an increasingly significant factor in the diminishing real dollar income of American families, fair pay between the sexes for comparable employees escalates in importance. This new paycheck frontier must be conquered for women and their families. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO LOS LOBOS

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the internationally acclaimed musicians Los Lobos for sharing their remarkable talents and their spirit of generosity with the people of America. The quintet has steadily gained fans internationally and earned a place as one of music's most uncompromising innovators. What is less known but equally as valuable about Louie Perez, Cesar Rosas, David Hidalgo, Conrad Lozano, and Steve Berlin is their roles as Ambassadors of goodwill. Los Lobos have become inspirational role models for the greater Los Angeles community, especially for our children.

Messrs. Perez, Rosas, Hidalgo, and Lozano were born and raised in east Los Angeles and

were friends at Garfield High School. They came of age during the 1960's rock movement but have never abandoned their Mexican folk music heritage. The band's 20-plus-year history incorporates traditional rhythms, American folk, rock-and-roll and R&B among its influences. However, the strongest pull for Los Lobos derives from their east Los Angeles roots.

Los Lobos have released 10 albums and collaborated on numerous film, television, theatrical, and commercial productions. In 1985, the group received the distinction as "Band of the Year" by Rolling Stone. It was their hit "La Bamba," one of eight Ritchie Valens remakes recorded for the namesake movie soundtrack, that thrust them into America's eye and brought the band international acclaim. The song was Billboard's No. 1 pop single in 1987.

In 1988, Los Lobos received a Grammy Award for "Best Mexican-American Performance" for "La Pistola Y El Corazon." They have received other accolades ranging from MTV Music Video Awards to "L.A. Times Album of the Year."

All of what I have just recited explains the fame. But, one of Los Lobos' most recent perhaps most cherished achievements has been their support of Broadoaks Children's School in Whittier, CA. The group has raised considerable funds during three sold-out benefit concerts at Whittier College. All of these funds have enabled the school to expand its services to children, families, and teachers throughout Los Angeles.

In 1996, Broadoaks dedicated its newest building the "Los Lobos Learning Center," honoring the groups commitment to this first through sixth grade elementary school. The Los Lobos Learning Center includes two classrooms for fourth through sixth grade students, many of whom require special education services. All students in this center are required to participate in public service projects to instill the value of volunteerism—a reminder and tribute to their benefactors.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 11, 1997, friends and family will gather at a dinner to pay special tribute to Los Lobos to acknowledge the group's commitment and generosity toward the children at Broadoaks Children's School. It is with distinct pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting these exceptional individuals for their outstanding contributions to the music world and for their lasting gesture of goodwill toward our community.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND MEDICAL MARIJUANA

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association and all health care providers should be alerted that legislation I am introducing today will require the Attorney General to revoke the Federal license to prescribe medication to any health care practitioner who recommends to a patient the use of smoked marijuana. This bill is a response to the fraudulent efforts of the pro-drug crowd in the States of California and Arizona where they

now allow for the medical use of marijuana. This bill will be offered as an amendment to the first available authorization or appropriations bill.

The organizations which promoted the California and Arizona medical marijuana initiatives—Drug Policy Foundation/NORML—intentionally exploited the pain and suffering of others as part of their back door attempt to legalize marijuana.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, it is a Federal offense to sell, use, or possess a controlled substance, such as marijuana. The Federal Government, or more specifically, the Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly rejected marijuana for medical use because it adversely impacts concentration and memory, the lungs, motor coordination, and the immune system.

There is increasing scientific evidence that smoked marijuana would be the last medication you would want to prescribe to persons with AIDS since this drug further compromises their immune system, thereby increasing the risk of infections and respiratory problems.

Specifically, my bill, the Medical Marijuana Prevention Act, requires the DEA to revoke the Federal license of a physician to dispense approved medication, under the Controlled Substance Act, if they recommend the use of smoked marijuana for a medical treatment.

Federal law (21 U.S.C. S. 824) provides the President authority to deny a doctor's registration to dispense controlled substances—medication—if the doctor is found to commit acts inconsistent with the public interest. In other words, the President already has the authority under existing law to end the medical marijuana fraud.

As I have said on countless occasions, the only legacy of the Clinton Presidency will be a dramatic increase in the use of illegal drugs in America. There is still time for the President to reverse this trend but it would require decisive action on his part. Unfortunately given his record on this most important of issues it may again be left to Congress to take the initiative.

HELP COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY BASE CLOSURE

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will facilitate the swift transfer of closed military bases to local communities. I am happy to be joined in this endeavor by my colleague, Mr. SAXTON, the primary cosponsor of this legislation. This action is necessary because current law hinders the large and complex transfer of military base property with economic redevelopment in mind.

Many of the laws governing the reuse of military bases are antiquated and filled with confusing terms and conditions. One major existing hindrance is a clause prohibiting the obtaining of profit by local communities. This is a problem because it prevents local communities from generating profits through subleasing for the purpose of reinvestment to maintain and improve landscaping, maintenance, and infrastructure. The remedy for this situation is to replace the clause with legislation embodying the provisions of the base closure laws and amendments of the 1990's.